

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector suitable for use with connected pipe sections having an internal liner, the pipe liner connector comprising a substantially cylindrical sleeve having opposed open ends for sealed attachment to the internal liner of the connected pipe sections, and the substantially cylindrical sleeve defining one or more vents for balancing a pressure differential between a micro-annulus, formed between the internal liner and the connected pipe sections, and a bore defined by the connected pipe sections.

2. (original) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the pipe liner connector further comprises a shielding ring located between the opposed open ends.

3. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the shielding ring is heat resistant ~~so as to protect the pipe liner connector from welding or a similar heat inducing processes.~~

4. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein an open end comprises a diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced from the open end towards the opposed open end, said ring section having one or more venting grooves located on an outer surface thereof and extending longitudinally thereon.

5. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the open end further comprises one or more seals located between the open end and the ring section and the open end having a diameter intermediate of the cylindrical sleeve and the ring section.

6. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the one or more seals provide a liquid tight connection with an internal surface of the internal liner while the ring section engages with an internal surface of the pipe section.

7. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein an open end comprises one or more circumferential grooves suitable for receiving an adhesive and a second vent located between the one or more circumferential grooves and the open end.

8. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector for use with a pipe having an internal liner, the pipe liner connector comprising a substantially cylindrical sleeve having opposed first and second open ends, wherein the first open end comprises a first diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced from the first open end towards the second open end, said ring section having one or more venting grooves located on an outer surface thereof and extending longitudinally thereon for balancing a pressure differential between a micro-annulus formed between the internal liner and the pipe sections on a first side of the ring section and an annular section defined between the pipe liner connector and the pipe sections on a second, opposing side of the ring section.

9. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the first open end further comprises one or more seals located between the first open end and the first ring section and having a diameter intermediate of the cylindrical sleeve and the first ring section.

10. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the second open end further comprises a second diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced from the second open end towards the first open end, said second ring section having one or more venting grooves located on an outer surface thereof and extending longitudinally thereon.

11. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the second open end further comprises one or more seals located between the second open end and the second ring section and having a diameter intermediate of the cylindrical sleeve and the first ring section.

12. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the pipe liner connector further comprises a shielding ring located between the first and second ring sections.